

"THE COMMUTERS" LOOKS A SUCCESS

James Forbes' Suburban Comedy Scores Hit at National.

PLOT NOT MISSED IN BRIGHT LINES

Capable Cast Provided for Production—Taylor Holmes Wins Favor.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

Have you ever been a commuter? Have you ever lived in the well, the dyed-in-the-wool suburbanite would simply ask meaningfully, "Have you ever lived?"

For really to live, he will tell you, you must get close to nature, and be sure you also get close to the street car line; your domicile should be called "Lake View" or some such pretty name because on sunny days you honestly can see the lake from the garret window; and, gentle reader, do not forget to subscribe to the weekly that comes around on Saturdays and talks to you in this same chummy and chatty tone; and remember that nature will be perennially beautiful all day long while you are in the busy city at work.

Such is the hopeful view of the real estate situation taken by James Forbes in his latest comedy, "The Commuters." It is a comedy; any one in the audience at the National last night will vouch for that; but it is more. It is a problem play. Not the divorce court exactly, though there was a divorce, but a play, though the problems are the servant girl, and the catching of the 7:46 train, and the backwardness of the seasons. It is to such deep sources as these that Mr. Forbes goes for the roots of domestic unhappiness instead of simply digging up the family tree of the past.

Play Nearly Plotless.

Mr. Forbes unkindly, mayhap, thoughtlessly, deprived reviewers of the space filling comfort of reciting the plot, because there wasn't any. A few complications arose when Larry Brice, the commuter in question, brought home a friend from the city, and forgot it until late next morning. And there was a family disruption because said hubby and friend went to "the club," and Mrs. Brice worked dire vengeance on them by almost "making a night of it."

Speaking of clubs, what would the stage do without them. All our best plays have them galore, and "The Commuters" is no exception. In this little suburb of 40 or so denizens there is a "club" to go to, and the women have a club, and the proletariat have "clubs," even to the servant girl and the ass man.

This plotlessness was covered over nicely with the brightest kind of dialogue. The lines are so very, very bright that they glitter a little too much in places, that is to say, in the wrong places. The comedy Irish cook was always ready to deliver snappy little witticisms which might have been culled from Puck's "The House of Mirth" or the stage but five minutes, but he fairly bubbled with wit.

Suburban Scenes.

Amusing situations that threw side-lights on suburban unhappiness followed in quick succession, and one of the most uproarious was the women's club scene in the second act. From a scenic standpoint the veranda of the Brice home on Sunday morning proved the perfect gem. The picket fence, probably, was responsible for the applause.

In Taylor Holmes, the producer, Henry B. Harris, unearthed a comedian of rare quality. With a chin and hair that would do credit to Raymond Hitchcock, this actor combines methods all his own, and it is worth several laughs to hear him laugh.

Miss Jane Marbury was wholly charming, how could she be otherwise, and Orin Johnson was highly satisfactory in the role of the reluctant, and several other kinds of a husband. Another comedy hit was scored by Miss George Lawrence, who bore the brunt of the servant problem. And in person, as attractions Miss Lawrence ran a close race with Miss Marbury in the eyes of a part of the audience.

LYCEUM—"The Kidder."

A two-act comedy entitled "The Kidder," presented by the Brigadier Company, is the attraction this week at the Lyceum Theatre. The work of Dick Brown and William Lester, the headliner, is the only claim the show may lay to comedy, the near and almost comeframe not producing a great deal of hilarity. The chorus work was of a fairly high order, and a number of musical selections made hits.

The olio was long and entertaining. The Martell bicycle act was one of the most interesting seen in this city for a long time. Lester and Mowin in "A Day at the Beach," which, from all accounts, was also the dance and fancy step act of the Misses Grace and Amelia Bertolotti. Just there were the excellent and humorous touch of Brown and Everett called forth several encores.

AMATEURS TO PLAY IN PINERO COMEDY

Dramatic Club of Immaculate Conception Will Present "The School Mistress."

"The School Mistress," one of the best known of Arthur Pinero's comedies, will be presented on Friday evening by the Dramatic Club of the Immaculate Conception School.

The play will be given in the auditorium of the new school on the corner of street near Eighth. The same organization gave last year, "Maneuvers of June," by Henry Arthur Jones, and met with great success.

The cast for this year's production includes a number of the actors in last year's presentation.

ABORN FAVORITES SCORE IN GOTHAM

Three former Aborn Opera favorites of Washington are appearing in Greater New York this week in operatic productions.

Edith Bradford and Forrest Huff, the latter a Washington singer, are lined up with the forces of "The Chocolate Soldier," which, from all accounts, seems to be one of the season's musical hits in Gotham. Mr. Huff is singing the leading man, and Mr. Jones, and met with great success.

The cast for this year's production includes a number of the actors in last year's presentation.

DEARS, FEARS, FUN FILL "IS MATRIMONY A FAILURE?"

Clean Comedy Shows the Inconsistencies of the Married Folk in a Small Town and the Joys of Forgiveness.

Marry in haste and repent at leisure is an old theme for novel and play, but in Leo Dietrichstein's comedy, "Is Matrimony a Failure?" which made its initial appearance in Washington at the Belasco last night, the usual order is reversed, and it was evidently a case of separate in haste and repent at leisure.

It isn't a bad argument either, that the author gives in the negative on this question that has been debated from time immemorial. Most assuredly it is not a failure of the experience of some thirty couples of the little country town of Rosedale can be taken as an illustration.

Imagine this village awakening to the fact that more than a score of its "happily mated pairs" are not married at all, thanks to the mania for deer hunting that possessed its magistrate who, during the open season, left his clerk to tie the knots without legal right.

At first an unholy joy fills the heart of the male population at the news of the unexpected freedom and most of all, thanks to the mania for deer hunting that possessed its magistrate who, during the open season, left his clerk to tie the knots without legal right.

Sue for Peace.

This does not last long and soon they return, willing to make peace on less exacting terms. Here their troubles begin.

The women, led by Madge Bolt, who has many old scores to settle and terms of her own to make, leave home and move to the inn, and the male insurgents are given a taste of housekeeping without housewives.

HONORS DIVIDED ON CHASE'S BILL

With John Hyams and Lella McIntyre repeating their success, "The Quakeress," and Edwin Stevens and Tina Marshall appearing in a new musical comedy, "Guardy," Chase's this week has two headliners of high merit.

Mr. Hyams and Miss McIntyre in songs, nonsense and clever travesties were as warmly welcomed as on their first appearance here in the same comedy triumph. Mr. Stevens and Miss Marshall came this time in an entirely new line, and the former is given opportunity to display new talents.

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CASINO—Continuous Vaudeville.

Five real live, not to say real lively, full grown bears occupy the limelight at the Casino Theatre this week.

Under the fearless direction of little Miss Spellman, the one-time words of American boasts forget their former popularity, and stand undignifiedly on their respective heads, indulge in dance steps equally undignified, see-saw, ride the tight-rope, and as a finale, enclose, drink, a bottle of beer. En route to Washington four little cubs were born, and they are on exhibition at the entrance to the theatre.

The feature of the afternoon performance was the singing and dancing act of Princess Chiquita, daughter of the late Indian chief, White Star. George Brown and his dogs won much applause, and "The Suffragette," as presented by Kerry and Whitford, drew peal after peal of laughter and applause. Miss DeLoe, who was the star of the evening, was a source of delight and was applauded until long after the next number had been announced. The Powers Brothers, in a roller skating and dancing act, were well received.

GAYETY—"The Crackerjacks."

Bob Manchester's "Crackerjacks," the attraction at the Gayety Theatre this week, opened yesterday to a crowded house, and was received in an enthusiastic manner. The two burlesques were well staged, and filled with clever lines and humorous situations. The chorus sings well.

The music of this performance was one of its features. The singing of "Richie" by Miss Adams scored a hit, although the song itself was somewhat frayed at the edges in this section. There were a number of other good songs. Billy Hart, Ruby Leon, and La Belle Marie furnished the principal comedy work. Some excellent stunts were well balanced as presented by La Belle Marie. Pealson, Goldie, and Hill head an act filled with good singing and dancing.

CHARLESTON SAILS.

AMOY, April 26.—The cruiser Charleston, of the American Asiatic squadron, has sailed for Shanghai. The gunboats Wilmington, Callao, and Samar remain here.

Hay's Hair Health

NEVER FAILS TO RESTORE GRAY HAIR TO ITS NATURAL COLOR AND BEAUTY.

No matter how old and faded your hair looks, or how long you have been gray, it will work wonders for you, keep you looking young, promote a luxuriant growth of healthy hair, stop its falling out, and positively remove dandruff.

Will not soil skin or linen. Will not injure your hair. Is Not a Dye.

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gents are given a taste of housekeeping without housewives.

This state of affairs can not last, and at a time led by the ring leader of the revolt—hey come back to their wives and the second honeymoon season is on in full blast.

Unlike most of the present day comedies, "Is Matrimony a Failure?" is a straight legitimate comedy depending on humorous situations, clever lines and good work by the cast and not on grotesque make-ups and slap-stick comedy for its success. The result is one of the most enjoyable offerings of the season, with a laugh in almost every line.

There are no stars in the cast, although any one of three or four names might well be used in that connection were it fair to the others.

Cast Does Excellent Work.

Frank Worthing, an old Washington favorite, does excellent work as the author of the play that starts all of the complications. James Bradbury, and "his wife," Anne Sutherland, both leaders in the matrimonial revolt, are also leaders in the fun-making which also is just what is expected.

Jane Grey, as the only unmarried principal, has a delightful role which is made all the more pleasant by her voice, her personality, and her appreciation of what the part demands. Jane Grey is a stunning young wife, and an occasional shortcoming in her work is readily overlooked. Louise Mackintosh has a great deal to do as mother-in-law, mother-in-law, and hostess and she does it well.

Marshall Walker, who hails from the District, W. J. Ferguson, and half a dozen others, complete an excellent cast.

The comedy is presented in typical Belasco style with striking costumes and careful stage setting, not even the house being omitted from the homey looking house.

"PIERRE OF PLAINS" SEEN AT ACADEMY

"Pierre of the Plains," a dramatization of "Pierre and His People," a story of the Canadian plains above the Montana border line, is at the New Academy this week. It won favor with a large audience last night when the deeds of Pierre, the halfbreed gambler, were capably interpreted.

Love is the paramount issue, the plot dealing with the trials of Pierre, whose every act generally is good, but who is misunderstood. Pierre aids Val Galbraith, brother of Jen Galbraith, to escape, after having shot an Indian in self-defense. Val is forced to flee with Redding, comes to the latter's aid by carrying the papers for Val's arrest to headquarters, not knowing what they contain. Val is caught on his way to escape, but is again freed by Pierre, not, however, before the latter is forced to kill a mounted policeman, an old-time enemy. Jen escapes to the home of the parish priest, where Pierre finds the means to be overtaken by Redding. Through the aid of Jen, who declares she no longer loves Redding, and with Jen, comes out on the "long trail" that knows no turning back.

Sovereign DeDeen capably represented Pierre.

Thomas Henry, as Jen Durkin, the guide, and John Ravold, as Father Corraline, were good; while Madeline Estelle, as Jen Galbraith, was a real heroine. Harry Holman was funny as Matt Brady, the all-around man at Galbraith's roadside.

MIDWAY—Cakewalk.

Baltimore's best cakewalkers, according to the decision of the judges at the Midway's second cakewalk carnival last night, are John Henry and Hetty Green. These dusky Oracles opened a series of ragtime steps and introduced a laughable comedy movement, which they termed "Open Muffin Rag," in imitation of an automobile. Lett got applause from a dainty little terpsichorean concoction which was called a "Solomee toe dance." Much of the old-fashioned Southern style was displayed by the Baltimoreans. Washington's champions, Clara Thornton and William Campbell, who carried off first prize last week, walked against the Baltimoreans and did none but the best of the fancy stepping that gave them first place before. They said they were holding back for the championship struggle two weeks from now.

Musical numbers by the entire team were given as a preliminary to the cakewalk. Songs and plantation choruses, with a few buck dances thrown in constituted a first part to the performance. Judging the cakewalk were Vernon West, C. F. R. Ogilby, Jr., and Earl Godwin. The megaphone was in the hands of John R. Dalsh.

CRITICS APPROVE "CASTE" PRODUCTION

NEW YORK, April 25.—The critics today declare that the day of the revival of old-time favorites is not ended, following the production last night of "Caste," presented by an all-star cast, in which are Miss Marie Tempest, Edna Furgerson, Maudie Milton, Edwin Hayden, G. P. Huntley, and Graham Brown.

"The Girl With the Whopping Cough" is severely attacked by those who witnessed its initial performance.

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THURSTON PROVES A WORTHY PUPIL

Methods of Kellar Shown by Magician at the Columbia.

Americans, like other humans, delight in being mystified. That is probably why a large audience at the Columbia Theatre last night seemed to enjoy thoroughly the tricks played upon their senses by Thurston, the magician.

It is a bit disconcerting to have our eyes and our reasons contradict one another. Yet, if one is warned beforehand by the program, the sensation may be experienced without inducing any more serious effect than perplexity.

Thurston is a magician of the modern school, combining with the feats of the sleight-of-hand performer of the old days the illusions requiring elaborate mechanical and scenic effects. He is a Japanese performer. Those seated in the front of the theatre, who had seen the work of the master recognized in his pupil the methods which won the veteran a great name. But they were not willing to concede that the light of Kellar's reputation is in any way dimmed by his successor.

Jane Grey, as the only unmarried principal, has a delightful role which is made all the more pleasant by her voice, her personality, and her appreciation of what the part demands. Jane Grey is a stunning young wife, and an occasional shortcoming in her work is readily overlooked. Louise Mackintosh has a great deal to do as mother-in-law, mother-in-law, and hostess and she does it well.

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CHARLIE, THE MONK, GOOD HOUSEKEEPER

Cleans Up His Quarters Each Morning and Amuses Circusgoers.

Charlie I., described as the latest Darwinian "mistake in nature," and said to be one of the perennial "missing links," will make his appearance in Washington with Barnum & Bailey's circus on May 9 and 10.

Charlie is a chimpanzee. He does stunts that class up with "Peter," and then some. He won attention in London as a scientific find before he went into the amusement business, and he is touring America under the direction of his discoverer, Mr. Buchanan.

Though he is strong for the intellectual thing, and is said to have kept London psychologists guessing, Charlie goes in strongly for athletics. He is an expert bicyclist, says his press agent, and has a long line of acrobatic "stunts" that might do credit to a human being.

Charlie dines with the use of a full table equipment. He is an expert billiard player, and he is without any of the peculiarities of human genius, if the press agent's tale be true that he does his own housework and actually cleans up his quarters each morning.

Charlie hasn't a family tree. He was born in Africa about ten years ago, and according to the best authorities, he was found by a party of scientists sitting beneath a tree eating coconuts. All of which was not unusual for a chimpanzee, but this particular animal, to quote advance notices, handed around the coconuts.

He became a member of the party—the press agent still being authority for this—when he ran after the tourists and thoughtfully returned a drinking vessel and became exceedingly useful in cleaning up the decks, and he improved his time by lending a helpful hand in the kitchen. On the day when he put on an apron and coyly proceeded to wash dishes Dr. Buchanan decided his talents were being lost to London. This is his first season in America.

JUVENILE CLUB CASINO'S GUESTS

A treat is in store for the members of the Washington Juvenile Club, next Saturday. They are to be the guests of the Casino Theater management, and are to have a special vaudeville performance for their benefit. Notice has been sent out by the club's secretary that each boy to be on hand at the club rooms, Seventh and L streets north-west, at 1 o'clock.

An entertainment was given for the benefit of this club April 15 last at the home of Mrs. F. B. Moran.

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Only those who buy the genuine Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna can hope to get its beneficial effects, and as a guarantee of the excellence of the remedy, the full name of the company—California Fig Syrup Co.—is printed on the front of every package, and without it any preparation offered as Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is fraudulent and should be declined. To those who know the quality of this excellent laxative, the offer of any substitute, when Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is called for, is always resented by a transfer of patronage to some first-class drug establishment, where they do not recommend, nor sell false brands, nor imitation remedies. The genuine article may be bought of all reliable druggists everywhere; one size only. Regular price 50 cents per bottle. Get a bottle today to have in the house when needed.

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IT COSTS NOTHING TO TRY.

There are in this city no doubt actually thousands of ladies who are growing old before their time. Thousands, young and old, who suffer from physical pain, constant mortification and humiliation, from pimples and blotches and blackheads, whose complexions are sallow or losing their "roses," who have wrinkles and the other countless facial blemishes that make life a burden to women and men, too.

"Vioia Cream does not cover up blemishes or clog the pores as other preparations do, but by gentle, sure, and certain medication actually replaces the old sallow, pimply skin with a new skin as fresh and pretty as a June rose. This is absolutely the only remedy on earth which will do this. By the same gentle process it keeps a good complexion good always. It won't grow hair.

We want you to prove this without your risking a penny. The best way to prove it is to go to the nearest drug store and purchase a 50c jar under our absolute guarantee of satisfaction; but if you do not wish to do this just send your name and address and that of your druggist to the G. C. Bittner Co., Dept. 48, Toledo, Ohio, at once, and a treatment of the beauty doctors' great remedy will be sent you free by return mail. You cannot afford to go another day without this treatment, which is the only perfect and unailing skin and complexion beautifier.

For sale in Washington by O'Donnell Drug Co. and Henry Evans.

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Henry B. Harris' New York Success,
PIERRE OF THE PLAINS
NEXT WEEK—EAST LYNNE. ap25-27

NEW NATIONAL TONIGHT at 8:15
Matinee Tomorrow
Henry B. Harris Presents
THE COMMUTERS
A New Farce Comedy, by James Forbes.
Author of "The Chorus Lady" and "The Traveling Salesman." ap25-27

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Week of May 2, Mlle. Modiste.
Week of May 9, El Capitán.
Week of May 16, Merry Monarch.
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Seats for "Mlle. Modiste," Thurs., at 9 a. m. ap25-27

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Mats. Thurs. and Sat., 5c to \$1.00.
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KELLAR'S SUCCESSOR.
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Wed. & Sat. Mats., 5c to \$1.50.
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David Belasco Presents the Merry Comedy
Is Matrimony a Failure?
BY LEO DITTRICHSTEIN.
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